



November Newsletter 2009

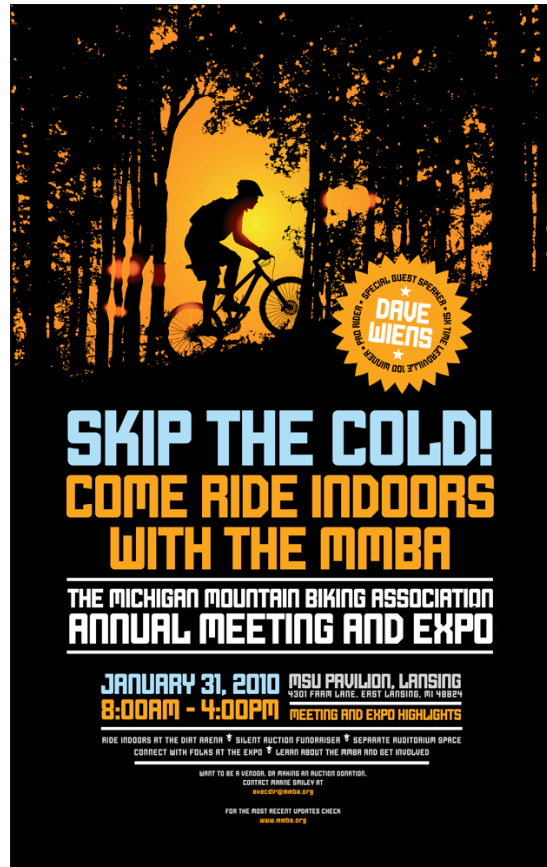
Welcome to the third newsletter, and thank you for your support of the MMBA. The MMBA is working hard to keep the membership updated.

Annual Meeting and Expo:

The annual meeting and expo will be Jan 31st, 2010 at the MSU Pavilion in East Lansing. In addition to riding indoors at the dirt arena, Dave Wiens of the Race Across the Sky Documentary and 6-time Leadville 100 winner will be the guest speaker. Yes there will be dirt and yes you will be able to ride indoors. Look for this poster at your local shop!

This year in lieu of the typical First-Across-The-Finish-Line award, the MMBA will be thanking our volunteers with a free breakfast before the annual meeting. We are also working on a special thank you gift to recognize our retailers and sponsors commitment to advocacy. Their support is vital in delivering the message of the MMBA and we value their support.

Got questions? Want to know what is happening behind the scene? Want to be more involved? We got answers. The MMBA leadership is giving state and chapter reports and hosting a question and answer for the membership. We will answer your questions the best we can.



The silent auction will be back for a third year in row and we are revving up to make this year just as special as the last. We are pulling in items, but if you have any suggestions or would like to make a donation please contact Marne at execdir@mmba.org.

Finally changes are being made to the At-Large Board member voting process. Nominations have been opened and will be accepted through Dec 12th. The election process will be held electronically this year. For more information on the At-Large bidding and voting process visit us on the front page at <http://mmba.org/forum/viewtopic.php?f=17&t=94012>.

For current info on the annual meeting and expo visit www.mmba.org/annual-meeting.

Communications

The MMBA is now on Twitter, follow along @mmbaed.

The last BRB is scheduled to go out the first week in December, please help us stay in touch with you by updating your e-mail under your membership login.

MMBA out and about

Iceman- Thank you to everyone who stopped by the MMBA booth at Iceman. Our new merchandise director, Aline Cotel, was thrown into her position at Iceman where over \$500 in merchandise was sold. We sold sweatshirts, memberships, and had a busy booth for most of the expo. Did you hear a familiar voice at the finish line? Executive Director Marne Smiley took a few turns on the microphone talking about the MMBA and how to become a member.

Mid-America Trail and Greenway- The MMBA sent three representatives to the conference in Kalamazoo on Oct 25-27th and sponsored a day of trail riding and building at Fort Custer.

New Economy and Quality of Life- Executive Director, Marne Smiley, gave a presentation to the Economics and Quality of Life committee on Wednesday November 4th on the impact of mountain biking in Michigan and discuss ways of making Michigan a biking destination. The committee was very engaged and excited to learn more about the MMBA.

Looking ahead the MMBA will be sending representatives to two national advocacy events. Both the National Bike Summit on March 9-11th in Washington DC and the IMBA Bike Summit on May 5-8th in Augusta, Georgia. At the National Bike Summit the MMBA delegates met with both Michigan Senators and multiple Representatives.



Advocacy

The Passport Bill- the Recreation Passport legislation, Senate Bills 388 & 389, was adopted by the full Senate this morning with a vote of 24-11 and 23-12 respectively. The bills have been referred to the Great Lakes and Environment committee. The info has been posted on the board <http://mmba.org/forum/viewtopic.php?f=2&t=94009>.

Citizens Advisory to State Parks Committee- The citizens committee is being disbanded starting Jan 17th. The committee is currently trying to find a new home under the arm of the Natural Resources Committee (NRC).

Horse Bill 4610- The House passed the bill on November 5th and has been referred to the Senate committee of Agriculture and Bioeconomy. The bill would require the Department of Natural Resources to allow pack and saddle animals (primarily, horses) to be ridden on "trailways" on any state-owned land where this use has been allowed since January 1, 1999, and to reopen lands that were closed to this use since that date. The DNR has strongly opposed to the bill and is concerned provisions in the bill could jeopardize \$24.8 million dollars in federal funding. The MMBA is opposed to this bill.

Volunteers

Thank you to everyone who answered our call to volunteers! A big welcome and thank you to:

Todd Powers- new BRB designer

Bonnie Walworth- Archivist, a newly created position in charge of keeping the library up-to-date and the history of the MMBA intact

Dennis Murphy- new CPS coordinator

We are still looking for help on the day of the annual meeting and expo, if you would like to volunteer please contact Marne at execdir@mmba.org

Schedule of Events

November 27 Western MMBA's Turkey Burner Ride

December 7 Western Chapter Meeting

December 12 Deadline for State Board At-Large Member nominations

December 12 Potawatomi Abominable Snowman Ride

December 13 Western Chapter Annual Holiday Ride

December 15-20 Vote for State Board At-Large Members

January 20 Next E-newsletter out

January 31 MMBA Annual Meeting & Expo

February 2-5 MRPA Annual Conference

February 13 Grand Rapids Bicycle Film Festival

Go to the MMBA Calendar for the latest group rides and trail building information at <http://www.mmba.org/calendar/events>

Thank you for reading our second E-newsletter, we are excited to be keeping you informed. If you have any suggestions, questions or comments, feel free to share at execdir@mmba.org